

NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH ABORIGINAL  
PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN B.C.:

# Measuring Outcomes

2008 - 2009



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## INTRODUCTION

The Province and Aboriginal communities are working together to close the socio-economic gaps that exist between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians. The *New Relationship* provides a vision for this work; the *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* identify key priorities to address: First Nations – Crown Relationships, Education, Housing and Infrastructure, Health and Economic Opportunities.

Measuring Outcomes addresses a provincial commitment to track the social and economic outcomes of Aboriginal people in B.C. in order to measure progress toward closing the gaps.

Social change generally happens over significant periods of time – sometimes even generations. Data provides important information but personal stories highlight the direct impact to people and communities of the many activities being undertaken. Examples of community-level results are available online: *New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in B.C.*

The Province continues to work with Aboriginal partners to create and support long-term benefits for First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal people in their communities.

## MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

The Measuring Outcomes reporting framework is made up of indicators in five key areas: Improving First Nations – Crown Relationships, Education, Housing and Infrastructure, Health, and Economic Opportunities.

The indicators have been chosen based on their inclusion in the Transformative Change Accord and the availability of reliable data, with the goal of keeping the framework simple. The data is consistent with information collected and reported by other ministries. For a more in-depth understanding of the sectors, themes, and data in the Measuring Outcomes report, references to other more detailed ministry reports and data sources have been provided.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is working with Aboriginal partners, other ministries and stakeholders to improve the quality and availability of data. This second publication of the Measuring Outcomes report has included indicators in the Economic Opportunities section for the Métis population in British Columbia, as well as for the urban Aboriginal population. It is hoped that, over time, more data will be available for these two population groups. This aligns with the commitment made by British Columbia, First Nations, and Métis leadership to measure socio-economic outcomes over time, in order to improve the lives of Aboriginal people, and contribute to positive, lasting relationships around the province.

This version of Measuring Outcomes replaces the previously published version, and contains the following changes and updates:

- 2006 Census data
- Baseline measures for each of the indicators
- Improvements to the readability of the tables
- Interactive links to other reports and data sources
- Updates from the Provincial Health Officers' 2007 Annual Report released in 2009
- Indicators for measuring Economic Opportunities for the Métis, and the urban Aboriginal populations
- Additions to the definitions section

**Note on Census Data:** Where Census data is used, the Aboriginal identity population was counted the same way in 2006, 2001 and 1996, providing comparable data for three consecutive census years. However, comparison of Aboriginal data across census years must adjust for incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements. Some Indian reserves and settlements did not participate in the census as enumeration was not permitted or it was interrupted before completion. In 2006, there were 22 incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in British Columbia compared to 30 in 2001 and 77 in 1996.

The historic First Nations – Crown relationships in British Columbia have given rise to the present socio-economic disparity between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians. B.C.'s full potential will be realized only when Aboriginal people are an integral part of the social and economic life of the province. Improving First Nations

– Crown relationships requires respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights, and reconciliation of First Nations and Crown title and jurisdictions.

Although measuring and tracking a relationship presents challenges, the three indicators chosen can be measured over time to show progress:

Improving Crown – First Nations Relationships						
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2015 Target	Data Source
1a. Number of treaties and Agreements that build governmental progress towards reconciliation.	(2005/06) 2	8	8	14	2011/2015 Target 18	MARR
1b. How aware are British Columbians of diverse First Nations cultures within B.C.? (Responding: Very Aware)	(2007) 26%			20%	50%	B.C. CHES Survey
1c. Percentage of British Columbians who strongly agree that First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to B.C.	(2007) 44%			31%	50%	B.C. CHES Survey

**1a:** The Province enters into a large number of agreements with First Nations. For the purposes of this report, only those agreements that are negotiated by MARR and that contribute to reconciliation are counted. These include: Final Agreements (FA), Agreements in Principle (AIP), Treaty-Related Measures (TRM), Interim Measure Agreements (IMA), Cut-off Claim Settlement Agreements (CCSA), and others. As of March 2009, the fourteen treaties and agreements are: Blueberry River First Nations Final Agreement, Kwadacha First Nation Final Agreement with B.C. and BC Hydro, Initialled Isay Koy Dene First Nation Final Agreement with B.C. and BC Hydro, Economic Benefits Agreement with four Treaty 8 First Nations and progress towards FA, Government to Government Protocol Agreement with Treaty 8 First Nations, Amending Agreement to Economic Benefits Agreement with Treaty 8 First Nations, Amending Agreement to Economic Benefits Agreement with Blueberry River First Nation, Framework Agreement completed with Haida, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation ITA, Klanoose First Nation ITA, Bilateral signing of Maa-nulth Final Agreement by the Province and four Maa-nulth First Nations, Bilateral Understanding with Yale First

Nation, 12 new TRM agreements, and the Interim Measures Extension Agreement to Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region First Nations. Visit MARR's Treaties and Negotiations site for further information.

**1b and 1c:** In 2007 and 2008, two questions were included in the B.C. Stats Community, Health, Education and Social Services (CHES) survey. The first question asked respondents about how aware they were of diverse First Nations cultures in B.C. Respondents answering that they were either Very Aware (16%), or Somewhat Aware (51%) represented 77% of the responses in 2007, while this increased to almost 80% in 2008 (20% responding Very Aware, and 51% responding Somewhat Aware). The second question asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement that First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to B.C. Respondents answering that they Strongly Agreed (24%), or Somewhat Agreed (42%) represented almost 67% of the responses in 2007, while agreement increased to 71% in 2008 (31% responding that they Strongly Agreed, and 40% responding that they Somewhat Agreed).

Improving academic success is a significant priority for Aboriginal peoples and government. Education encompasses a lifelong learning process beginning with healthy early

childhood development and early learning opportunities, through to the attainment of credentials and participation in post-secondary education.

Education						
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2015 Target	Data Source
2a. Percentage of new school placements in formal, non-private public schools, increasing minority representation	unavailable	28%	28%	28%	28% (2015 target)	Aboriginal Education
2b. Early childhood program participation	Measurement: 100% for year					
2c. Credential Skills Assessment Measures: Personal Experience, Attitudes, Skills &						Ministry of Education
Reading Aboriginal Ancestry All Students Non-Aboriginal	2007/08			2008	100% for all students	
Writing Aboriginal Ancestry All Students Non-Aboriginal	2007/08			2008	100% for all students	
Numeracy Aboriginal Ancestry All Students Non-Aboriginal	2007/08			2008	100% for all students	
2d. Post-secondary credential attainment rate. The proportion of the population aged 15 and over holding a post-secondary credential, increasing minority representation	2006 22.7%	2006 24.5%	2006 24.5%	2006 24.5%	2006 24.5%	Ministry of Education & Culture / Market Development
2e. Post-secondary participation rate. Proportion of public post-secondary students based on total Aboriginal population compared to E.C. Aboriginal population proportion	4.40% 4.41%	4.38% 4.38%	4.42% 4.42%	4.40% 4.40%	4.40% 4.40%	Ministry of Education & Culture / Market Development AC Stats

**2a:** High school completion is a predictor of success. The data for the BC Certificate of Graduation completion is measured using the six-year Completion Rate. The six-year Completion Rate is the percent of Grade 8 students who graduate with a Certificate of Graduation. It is **NOT** the inverse of a "dropout rate" as students may graduate after the six-year period. Over a three-year time period, there has been no reduction in the 34% gap between completion rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students since 2005/06. Aboriginal ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification and includes First Nation (both Status and Non-Status), on-reserve and off-reserve, Inuit and Métis students.

**2b:** The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a population-based tool used to measure the state of child development at Kindergarten entry in the domains of: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development; and communication skills and general knowledge. The tool was designed to provide data to help inform communities and governments about how the programs, policies, and social environments we provide for young children combine to support their development. The EDI tool is a checklist that kindergarten teachers complete for each child in February, after having several months to get to get to know each child. The EDI remains under review for inclusion as an indicator for Aboriginal early childhood development. Aboriginal ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification and includes First Nation (both Status and Non-Status), on-reserve and off-reserve, Inuit and Métis students.

**2c:** The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well B.C. students in Grades 4 and 7 are learning foundation skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy. The content of the 2008 FSA was adjusted to accommodate the February administration dates; therefore, a new baseline for student performance was established for the 2008 FSA. Analysis of the data with respect to the decrease in the scores from 2007/08 to 2008/09 was not complete at publication time. To view performance prior to the adjustments, view the 2007/08 - 2008/09 [How Are We Doing Report](#).

**2d:** Post-secondary credentials include certificates, diplomas or university degrees. Survey data excludes the Aboriginal population living on-reserve, and students still in school.

**2e:** Headcount enrolment figures are reported in Academic Year (AY), from September 1 to August 31. "Headcount" measures all students who "touched down" in the public system, including those enrolled in developmental and continuing education (non-credit) courses. The data for the 2008 headcount are from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development Central Data Warehouse and five research universities. Aboriginal status is self-declared by students at their institution, or identified through Ministry of Education linkages to a declaration of Aboriginal status at the K-12 level. The non-Aboriginal category includes students whose Aboriginal status is unknown. The Aboriginal headcount has increased from 16,466 students in 2005/06 to 18,977 students in 2008/09. By 2015, Aboriginal enrolment in public post-secondary education will grow by 5,000 learners from the 2007 headcount, for a total enrolment target of 23,254 Aboriginal learners.

# 3 HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Many of the socio-economic disparities faced by Aboriginal peoples in B.C. are closely linked to inadequate housing and infrastructure. Approximately 70% of all Aboriginal people in B.C. do not live on-reserve. Aboriginal peoples are significantly more likely to be in "core housing need" than non-Aboriginal peoples, less likely to be owners of their own homes, and are significantly over-represented among the province's homeless population.

The provincial housing strategy identifies Aboriginal housing need as a priority issue. As part of this commitment, the Province undertook an extensive engagement process with Aboriginal groups. The information gathered through this process will be used to develop ways to provide safe, affordable and culturally appropriate housing to B.C.'s Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

Housing and Infrastructure						
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2015 Target	Data Source
3a. Core housing need (percentage of off-reserve Aboriginal households)	2001: 60.0% 2005: 55.4%	2006: 58.2%	59%	60%	50% for non-Aboriginal population	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
3b. Percentage of First Nations self-governing households with broadband facilities	2006: 10.4% 2007: 10.4%	2006: 10.4%	2007: 10.4%	2008: 10.4%	2015: 20% for non-Aboriginal population	Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship Services
3c. Percentage of long-term drinking water treatment works with capacity	2006: 95%	2006: 95%	2007: 95%	2008: 95%	2015: 95%	Health Canada
3d. Number of people in homeless shelters	2001: 1,000	2006: 1,000	2007: 1,000	2008: 1,000	2015: 1,000	2015: 1,000

3a: Core housing need (percentage) is a composite measure of the housing conditions of Canadian households. If a household fails to meet one or more of these three standards and it would have to spend 50% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative acceptable (meets all three standards) local housing, it is classified as being in core housing need. Between 2001 and 2005, the disparity in a 10% between off-reserve Aboriginal households

and non-Aboriginal households decreased from 14% to 6%.

3b: The Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship Services continues to support First Nations-led connectivity initiatives. Through a process of collaboration with First Nations organizations, the broader public sector, the federal government and the private sector, the provincial government will continue to support First Nations organizations as they work to ensure all First Nations have broadband access.





The ministry has set a goal to provide all 213 First Nations with at least consumer connectivity by 2010. In 2008-09, 38 more First Nations had consumer connectivity than the previous year, and the ministry has set a target of increasing the number of communities with consumer connectivity to 160 by end of 2010-11.

**3c and 3d:** The Province of British Columbia and Health Canada First Nation Inuit Health define a long-term drinking water advisory (DWA) as an advisory that is in place for one year or longer. The data is not cumulative, but represents the number of long-term advisories at the end of the reporting period. The greatest proportion of long-term advisories in British Columbia between 2004 and 2008 are those that were in effect between one and two years long.

DWAs include Hot Water Advisory and Do Not Consume Advisory. Advisories are relevant to two water systems: the Community Water System (CWS) and the Public Water System-Non-transient

(PWS-NT). The CWS is a piped distribution system that has five or more connections or housing units. The PWS-NT is a distribution system with less than five connections or housing units, considered a "public access water system" because it has one or more buildings that are open to the public, and regularly supplies water to the same people for six or more months per year. The water advisories do not include advisories for individual water systems, such as wells serving individual households.

DWAs may occur for reasons such as routine repairs, seasonal conditions such as high spring run-off, failures of the drinking water system or inadequate operation and maintenance. Action is taken to help First Nations remediate the problems of DWAs as soon as possible and address underlying causes of advisories to improve the management of a system, which would overall reduce the chances that a drinking water advisory might occur.



Monitoring and reporting on health outcomes and the health status of First Nations people is a key component of the *Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan: Supporting the Health and Wellness of First Nations in British Columbia*. The Health Plan identifies a number of performance indicators to be used to measure the effectiveness of programs in closing the health gap between First Nations and other British Columbians. In addition to these indicators, the parties to the *Tripartite First Nations Health Plan* are working together with First Nations

communities to identify relevant wellness indicators.

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) released *Pathways to Health and Wellbeing: 2nd Report on the Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal People in British Columbia*, a publication produced every five years that includes indicators from the First Nations Health Plan. The data in the table below are provided by the Office of the PHO.

There are currently no comparable health data for Metis and non-status Indian populations. Plans to improve data sources are under development.

Health				
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2015 Target	Data Source
4a. Life expectancy (years) Status Indian Other BC population	1990-1991 75 76	2001-2002 76 77	Equal with non-Aboriginal and Metis health	BC Health Services Information System  BC Aboriginal Health Information System  BC Vital Statistics  BC Disease Prevention and Control  BC Health Services Information System
4b. Age-standardized rates Rate per 100,000 Status Indian Other BC population	1990-1991 96 95	2002-2003 96 95	Reduce gap by 25%	
4c. Infant mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (2000) Status Indian Other BC population	1990-1991 14 7	2002-2003 13 7	Reduce gap by 50%	
4d. Infant mortality Rate per 1,000 live births Status Indian Other BC population	1990-1991 18 8	2002-2003 18 8	Reduce gap by 50%	
4e. Prevalence of Diabetes (per 100) Status Indian Other BC population	1990-1991 9.0 7.5	2002-2003 10.0 7.5	Reduce gap by 50%	
4f. Childhood Obesity	Baseline and ongoing measures for childhood obesity rates will be developed			
4g. Smoking: Current and former Health care professionals	Baseline and ongoing measures for healthy living rates will be developed			

4a: Life expectancy at birth is a prediction of the average number of years a newborn person can be expected to live. Status Indians born between 2002 and 2006 can expect to live 75 years, while other residents can expect to live 77 years.

4b: The age-standardized mortality rate (ASMR) measures the number of deaths due to all causes expressed as a rate per 100,000 people. The measure allows for comparisons in death rates between two or more populations by adjusting for differences in population age structure. In 2006, the age-standardized mortality rate for Status Indians is 11 times greater than for other British Columbians.

4c: Youth suicide rates measure deaths among 15- to 24-year-olds who deliberately harm themselves. The measure is expressed as a rate per 100,000 people. The rate of youth suicide for Status Indians is about three times that of other youth. Youth suicide is not an issue in every First Nations community. Between 1984 and 2006, more than half of First Nations communities in British Columbia reported no youth suicide.

4d: The infant mortality rate measures the number of infant deaths in the first year of life expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births. About nine of every 1,000 Status Indian infants die in their first year, compared with a rate of about four infant deaths among other British

Columbians. There is an average of 21 Status Indian infant deaths each year. The main cause of infant deaths are due to perinatal conditions related to maternal health, birth trauma, infections, respiratory and cardiovascular disorders and similar reasons.

4e: The Provincial Health Office reports the prevalence rate of diabetes among Status Indians is 19% as compared to 10% in other British Columbians, with age-specific rates that show Status Indians having already been diagnosed with diabetes. Increased testing procedures in the First Nations Health Plan will continue to bring unreported cases of diabetes. Although there is no conclusive evidence, possible explanations for the increase in the prevalence rates in the Aboriginal population may be in part attributed to increased testing for diabetes, and that more people are being diagnosed and therefore more people are living with diabetes.

4f: There are no routinely collected measures for childhood obesity for First Nations youth. A baseline and an ongoing mechanism for collecting relevant data is under development.

4g: There is no accurate information on the number of certified health care professionals in British Columbia who are First Nations, nor is there accurate information on how many of these are actually practicing. A baseline and an ongoing mechanism for collecting relevant data will be developed.

Increased access to economic opportunities for Aboriginal peoples requires a combination of improved community economic development and supports for individuals to participate in the economy. Improved economic outcomes for communities and individuals are dependent on a number of variables (such as education, training, access to capital, etc). The indicators attempt to

measure progress towards improved economic outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Efforts are being made to include more data specific to Métis and urban Aboriginal populations. This section of the report provides data for these population groups where 2001 and 2006 census data is available.

### Aboriginal Identity Population

Economic Opportunities - Aboriginal Identity						
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2015 Target	Data Source
5a. Employment rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 and older	2001: 51.1% 2006: 51.1%	52.3% 2006	52.3% 2007	52.3% 2008	55.0% 2015	Statistics Canada
5b. Employment rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 and older	2001: 51.1% 2006: 51.1%	52.3% 2006	52.3% 2007	52.3% 2008	55.0% 2015	Statistics Canada
5c. Employment rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 and older	2001: 51.1% 2006: 51.1%	52.3% 2006	52.3% 2007	52.3% 2008	55.0% 2015	
5d. Employment rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 and older	2001: 51.1% 2006: 51.1%	52.3% 2006	52.3% 2007	52.3% 2008	55.0% 2015	
5e. Employment rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 and older	2001: 51.1% 2006: 51.1%	52.3% 2006	52.3% 2007	52.3% 2008	55.0% 2015	
5f. Employment rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 and older	2001: 51.1% 2006: 51.1%	52.3% 2006	52.3% 2007	52.3% 2008	55.0% 2015	Statistics Canada
5g. Employment rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 and older	2001: 51.1% 2006: 51.1%	52.3% 2006	52.3% 2007	52.3% 2008	55.0% 2015	Statistics Canada

**5a:** Since 2004, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through a monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market status of Aboriginal peoples aged 15+ who are living off-reserve in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. B.C. sponsored an increased sample resulting in more robust data covering the off-reserve First Nations and Métis populations living in B.C. Since 2005, a similar increase in employment rates has occurred for both the Aboriginal off-reserve population and the non-Aboriginal population. Also, the gap in employment rates between the populations has also been closing during that time.

**5b:** Conducted every five years, the Census provides a statistical portrait of Canada's population, including Aboriginal peoples at a particular point in time. While not collected as frequently as the Labour Force Survey, the Census is a more comprehensive survey, with a much larger sample size. Our data also includes on-reserve, off-reserve and non-reserve Aboriginal populations. Between 2001 and 2006, Census also reveals a decrease in the unemployment rate between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations, with an existing gap of 14 percentage points (down from a gap of 14.5 percentage points in 2001).

**5c:** The median employment income for 2001 and 2005 is for full-year, full-time, reported at 2005 constant dollars. Median employment income is the income separating the higher half of the population incomes from the lower half. The median income is used rather than an average employment income as it is less affected by unusually high or low values. The gap in employment income decreased by \$289 between 2000 and 2005.

**5d:** Employment to population ratio is  $\text{Employment rate} = (\text{Employed/population } 15 \text{ and over}) \times 100$ .

The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number of employed persons in that group, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over in that group. Note: In past censuses, this was called the employment-population ratio. Refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over. There was an increase in the proportion of Aboriginal people 15 years and older who were employed in 2006, reducing the gap in this

indicator by 4.7 percentage points since 2001.

**5e:** Statistics Canada defines the self-employed as persons who worked in their own farm, business or professional practice including persons who:

- Spent time in the operation or setting-up of such enterprises, whether or not goods were sold or services were rendered, and whether or not a profit was made;
- Did work on a freelance or contract basis;
- Operated a direct distributorship selling and delivering products, such as cosmetics, newspapers, brushes or cleaning products, or
- Fished, hunted or trapped, whether for profit or for maintenance of their community.

The self-employment data show that there was a decline in the proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples who were self-employed in 2006, with a greater decline experienced in the Aboriginal population.

**5f:** Industry Training Authority (ITA) derives its Aboriginal Status data from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development Central Data Warehouse. This data does not include individuals who attended non-public training or those who did not attend any training during the period, nor does it include those registered in Foundation or high school programs. Aboriginal headcount relies on the voluntary declaration by an Aboriginal student of their status at either the K-12 level or at a public post-secondary institution. Headcounts show an increase in this report compared to previous versions due to recoding of some Welding and Aircraft Maintenance programs from Foundation to Apprenticeship. Data is reflective of 15 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions, including nine colleges, five universities, and one institute. Between 2005 and 2008, an increase of 8 percentage points and greater per year has been achieved in this indicator.

**5g:** Census questions relating to education changed substantially between 2001 and 2006. Therefore, valid comparisons cannot be made between the two censuses. According to the 2006 Census, 12.5% of the Aboriginal population (age 15+) (representing 17,615 Aboriginal people) completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, compared to only 10.8% of the non-Aboriginal population.

## Métis Population

### Economic Opportunities - Métis Population

Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2015 Target	Data Source
6a. Unemployment rate: Living off-reserve Non-Aboriginal population	(2005) 4.7% 3.7%	3.3% 4.9%	4.9% 4.1%	6% 3.4%	Differential will be reduced substantially	Labour Force Survey - Annual
6b. Unemployment rate: Metis single income Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 25.9% 8%	34% 1.0%	N/A		Differential will be reduced substantially	Census
6c. Median employment income: Metis single income Non-Aboriginal	(2000) \$39,075 \$44,070	(2005) \$38,035 \$42,581	N/A		Differential will be reduced substantially	
6d. Employment to population ratio: Metis single income Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 57.8 60	64.6 61.9	N/A		No gap currently exists	
6e. Self-employment status: Incorporated and unincorporated Metis single income Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 1.04% 1.04%	1.18% 1.02%	N/A		Differential will be reduced	Census
6f. Percent with apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma: Metis single income Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 14.4% 17.4%	N/A		No gap currently exists		Census

**6a:** Since 2004, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through a monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market status of Aboriginal peoples aged 15+ who are living off-reserve in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. B.C. sponsored an increased sample resulting in more robust data covering the off-reserve First Nations and Métis populations living in B.C. A downward trend in unemployment rates has occurred for both the Métis off-reserve population and the non-Aboriginal population since 2005, with the gap existing at 1.6 percentage points in 2008.

**6b:** Conducted every five years, the Census provides a statistical portrait of Canada's population, including Aboriginal peoples, at a particular point in time. While not collected as

frequently as the Labour Force Survey, the Census is a more comprehensive survey, with a much larger sample size. Between 2001 and 2006 the unemployment rate decreased for both the Métis and non-Aboriginal populations, with the gap in unemployment levels existing at 3.8 percentage points in 2006.

**6c:** The median employment income for 2001 and 2005 is for full-year, full-time, reported at 2005 constant dollars. Median employment income is the income separating the higher half of the population incomes from the lower half. The median income is used rather than an average employment income as it is less affected by unusually high or low values. The decrease in the gap in employment income between 2005 and 2006 was minimal (\$256).

6d: Employment to population ratio is  
 $\text{Employment rate} = (\text{Employed/population 15 and over}) \times 100$

The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number of employed persons in that group, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over, in that group. Note: In past censuses, this was called the Employment-population ratio. Refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over. There was an increase in the proportion of Métis and non-Aboriginal people 15 years and older who were employed in 2006, with the Métis population achieving a higher employment to population ratio than the non-Aboriginal population.

6e: Statistics Canada defines the self-employed as persons who worked in their own farm, business or professional practice including persons who:

- Spent time in the operation or setting-up of such enterprises, whether or not goods were sold or services were rendered, and whether or not a profit was made;

- Did work on a freelance or contract basis;
- Operated a direct distributorship selling and delivering products, such as cosmetics, newspapers, brushes or cleaning products; or
- Fished, hunted or trapped, whether for profit or for maintenance of their community.

The self-employment data show that there was a decline in the proportion of Métis and non-Aboriginal peoples who were self-employed in 2006, with a greater decline experienced in the Métis population.

6f: Census questions relating to education changed substantially between 2001 and 2006. Therefore valid comparisons cannot be made between the two censuses. According to the 2006 Census, 14.4% of the Métis population (age 15+) (representing 6,115 Métis people) completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, compared to only 10.8% of the non-Aboriginal population.

## Urban Aboriginal Population

Economic Opportunities - Urban Aboriginal Population			
Indicator	Baseline	2015 Target	Data Source
7a. Unemployment rate: Aboriginal Identity: off-reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 12% 5.6%	Differential will be reduced substantially	Census Statistics Canada
7b. Employment to population ratio: Aboriginal Identity: off-reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 59.1 61.9	Differential will be reduced substantially	
7c. Self-employment status: Incorporated and unincorporated Aboriginal Identity: off-reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 38% 15.7%	Differential will be reduced substantially	
7d. Percent with apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma: Aboriginal Identity: off-reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 12.0% 10.5%	No gap currently exists	

**7a:** Conducted every five years, the Census provides a statistical portrait of Canada's population, including Aboriginal peoples, at a particular point in time. In 2006, the unemployment rate for the urban Aboriginal population living off-reserve was higher than for the non-Aboriginal population, representing a difference of 6.4 percentage points.

**7b:** Employment to population ratio is  $\text{Employment rate} = (\text{Employed population} / 15 \text{ and over}) \times 100$ .

The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number of employed persons in that group, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over in that group. Note: In past censuses, this was called the Employment-population ratio. Refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over. As of 2006, there was a 2.6 percentage point difference between the employment to population ratio between the two population groups.

**7c:** Statistics Canada defines the self-employed as persons who worked in their own firm, business or professional practice including persons who:

- Spent time in the operation or setting-up of such enterprises, whether or not goods were sold or services were rendered, and whether or not a profit was made;
- Did work on a freelance or contract basis;
- Operated a direct distributorship selling and delivering products, such as cosmetics, newspapers, brushes or cleaning products; or
- Fished, hunted or trapped, whether for profit or for maintenance of their community.

Self-employment rates were lower for the urban Aboriginal population by 6.2 percentage points than for the non-Aboriginal population.

**7d:** Census questions relating to education changed substantially between 2001 and 2006, therefore valid comparisons cannot be made between the two censuses. According to the 2006 Census, a larger percentage of the urban Aboriginal population (age 15+) (representing 10,580 urban Aboriginal people) completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, compared to the non-Aboriginal population.



## DEFINITIONS

**Aboriginal:** The term "Aboriginal peoples of Canada" is defined in the *Constitution Act* of 1982, Part II, Section 35(2), as including "the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada". Canada's Aboriginal population is distinct and diverse. "First Nation" is the term generally preferred by Indian peoples of Canada. The term "Indian" is still used where referring to legislation or government statistics.

**Aboriginal Ancestry:** Refers to a person who can trace his or her ancestry to the Aboriginal linguistic family whose traditional lands fell in total or in part in the geographic area that is now Canada. Aboriginal ancestry also refers to a person who has been accorded Aboriginal rights by legislation, for example, by marriage to an Aboriginal person.

**Aboriginal Identity:** Aboriginal identity refers to a person who reports he or she identifies with, or is a member of, an organic political or cultural entity that stems historically from the original persons of North America. The term includes the Indian (First Nation), Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

**Aboriginal Identity: off-reserve, urban:** refers to the Aboriginal Identity population who live in an urban area. Does not include the Aboriginal population living on First Nation reserves.

**Indian Act:** The *Indian Act* is federal legislation, which dates from 1876. There have been more than twenty major changes to the original Act since then. The Act is administered by the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Act deals with registered Indians, Band Councils, and the system of Indian reserves.

**First Nations:** Officially called Indians in the *Indian Act*, this term refers to the indigenous peoples of North America located in what is now Canada, and their descendants, who are not Inuit or Métis. For the purposes of Aboriginal identification within British Columbia, the term "First Nation(s)" is the generally preferred term in place of "Indian". For statistical and analytical purposes, these terms are considered interchangeable and representative of the same population.

**Rural:** Rural areas include all territory lying outside urban areas. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada. Rural population includes all population living in the rural fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as population living in rural areas outside CMAs and CAs.

**Status Indian (SI):** A person who is registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*. The Act sets out the requirements for determining who is an Indian for the purposes of the *Indian Act*.

**Urban:** An urban area has a minimum population concentration of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre, based on the current census population count. All territory outside urban areas is classified as rural. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada. Urban population includes all population living in the urban cores, secondary urban cores and urban fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as the population living in urban areas outside CMAs and CAs.

**Non-Status:** First Nations (Indian) people who do not meet the criteria for registration, or have chosen not to be registered, under the *Indian Act*.

**Métis:** Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation. (*Definition adopted by the Métis National Council at their 2002 Annual General Assembly and further implemented by the Métis Nation British Columbia in 2003.*)

Métis people identify themselves, and are recognized, as distinct from First Nations (Indian), Inuit or European descendants. The distinct Métis culture arose after contact with the first European explorer/settlers but prior to colonialism. (*General definition.*)

**Métis off-reserve:** Includes the Métis population living in both urban and rural areas, but not those who live on a First Nation reserve.

**Métis Single Response:** Includes those persons who identified as Métis only.





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